

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 10854 261229Z

53

ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10854

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, US, IN

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: PUERTO RICO AND KOREA

REF: (A) STATE 178439, (B) STATE 181500, (C) STATE 181897

(D) NEW DELHI 10826

1. IN ADDITION TO DCM'S CONVERSATION WITH FONSEC, REPORTED NEW DELHI REFTEL, POLCOUNSELOR PRESENTED PUERTO RICO AIDE-MEMOIRE (REF B) TO MEA JOINT SECY (UN) N.P. JAIN, JULY 24, JUST PRIOR TO JAIN'S DEPARTURE FOR PRE-NAC CONSULTATIONS OVER THE WEEKEND IN BELGRADE. POLCOUNSELOR EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE USG HAD NOT EFFORTS MADE OVER LAST THREE YEARS BY SOME COUNTRIES IN NAM, TO MUTE NAM LANGUAGE ON PUERTO RICO, INCLUDING WE UNERSTOOD INDIA AND YUGOSLAVIA, IT SEEMED CLEAR TO US THAT IF THESE COUNTRIES REALLY AGREED THAT PUERTO RICO WAS INTERNAL U.S. MATTER AND THAT THERE WAS NO BASIS IN CUBAN ALLEGATIONS THEY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE THIS EXPLICITLY CLEAR WITHIN NAM AND WORK TO DROP THE ITEM COMPLETELY.

2. JAIN RESONDED THAT THERE WERE FEW COUNTRIES WILLING

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 10854 261229Z

TO JOIN IN SUCH AN EFFORT. POL COUNSELOR REPLIED THAT USG

WAS MAKING STRONG REPRESENTATIONS TO LARGE NUMBER OF NAM STATES AND PERHAPS INDIA AND YUGOSLAVIA WOULD FIND COMPANY FOR THEMSELVES IF THEY LOOKED THIS YEAR. JAIN SAID HE HOPED THIS WOULD BE THE CASE AND THAT HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE RESPONSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES. HE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH SUCH ISSUES IN THE NAM WAS NOT TO HIT AT THEM FRONTALLY, WHICH COULD DAMAGE THE MOVEMENT ITSELF, BUT TO PURSUE THE "WHITTLED AWAY" ACTIC THAT THE GOI HAD FOLLOWED ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES, INCLUDING PUERTO RICO, IN ORDER TO MODERATE THE TONE AND EMPHASIS OF NAM DECLARATIONS. JAIN TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO CLAIM FOR INDIA PRIME RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUTTING OFF DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO LAST YEAR IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 IN N.Y. HE NODDED IN RESPONSE TO POLCOUNSELOR'S COMMENT THAT AT THE MINIMUM THIS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE CASE, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE US POSITION MIGHT ALSO BE GREATLY STRENGTHENED IF THE USG WERE PREPARED TO PRESENT ITS CASE DIRECTLY TO THE COMMITTEE OF 24. POLCOUNSELOR REPLIED ONLY THAT THERE WAS NO BASIS WHATSOEVER FOR THE SUBJECT EVEN BEING DISCUSSED IN THE UN SINCE THE UNGA HAD ALREADY TAKEN NOTE OF THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROCESS OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PUERTO RICO AND THERE WERE RENEWED EXPRESSIONS OF POPULAR WILL EVERY FOUR YEARS IN COMMONWEALTH ELECTIONS.

3. KOREAN ISSUE WAS ALSO REVIEWED WITH JAIN ALONG LINES REF C AND SECRETARY'S JULY 22 SPEECH BUT NO AIDE-MEMOIRE WAS LEFT PENDING CONSULTATION WITH JAPANESE "CONVENOR" OF KOREA "CORE GROUP". WE NOW UNDERSTAND JAPAMB WILL MEET WITH MEA SECRETARY VELLODI JULY 26 AND WITH FONSEC JULY 27 AND LEAVE "AIDE-MEMOIRE" ON KOREA AT ONE OF THESE SESSIONS. JAIN HAD NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT WHATSOEVER TO MAKE ON KOREA TO POLCOUNSELOR.

4. JAPANESE EMBOFF INFORMS US THAT JAPANESE AMB DISCUSSED KOREAN QUESTION WITH MEA SECRETARY VELLODI ABOUT JULY 12, FOLLOWING VISIT PREVIOUS WEEK BY NORTH KOREAN DEPUTY FONMIN LI SONG MOK. VELLODI SAID NORTH KOREAN HAD MADE STRONG PITCH FOR HARDER LANGUAGE ON KOREAN ITEM AT COLOMBO. HE WANTED SPECIFIC CONDEMNATION OF ROK AND US, AND SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO DIRECT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN US AND NORTH KOREANS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 10854 261229Z

WITHOUT ROK. VELLODI TOLD JAPANESE AMBASSADOR THAT INDIANS WOULD WORK FOR BALANCED LANGUAGE IN NAC DECLARATION WHICH DID NOT TILT TOWARD EITHER SIDE. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WOULD BE A STRONGLY DEBATED SUBJECT AT COLOMBO, AND JAPANESE AND OTHERS SHOULD NOT HOLD INDIA RESPONSIBLE IF THE LANGUAGE ULTIMATELY ADOPTED TURNED OUT TO BE LESS BALANCED THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN HOPED FOR.

5. COMMENT: WE REITERATE OUR EARLIER VIEW (NEW DELHI 10826) THAT THE INDIANS HAVE OPENED THEMSELVES TO FURTHER PRESSURE FROM OTHER NAM STATES WHO MAY BE SYMPATHETIC TO U.S. POSITION BY CLAIMING THAT MORE MIGHT BE DONE ON PUERTO RICO IF OTHER COUNTRIES WERE WILLING TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE OTHER COUNTRIES WHO MAY BE WILLING TO BE HELPFUL TO US TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN TO INDIAN AND YUGOSLAV DELEGATIONS (BELGRADE 4844) AND URGE THEM TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE ON THIS ISSUE. ON KOREA, WE DOUBT THE INDIANS WILL SUPPORT ANY MOVE TO ELIMINATE REFERENCE TO WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA, BUT THINK VELLODI WAS BEING HONEST IN SAYING TO JAPANESE THAT INDIANS WOULD WORK FOR "BALANCED" RESOLUTION OTHERWISE. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, EXPECT THAT THEY WILL TAKE THE LEAD OR "FIGHT" ON THIS ISSUE.
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